



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2010
Human Resources Training Room
575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa CA 95403

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Liz Acosta, Mary Basham, Karen Famini, Jan Kiely (Chair), Donna Roper (Officer at Large)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Chris Allen, Christina Brenner (Vice Chair), Jan DeWald, Priscilla Vivio (all notified), Lisa Maldonado

JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Heidi Hirvonen, Ashlin Neal, Katherine Salinger

STAFF PRESENT: Nadine Jaillet

GUESTS PRESENT: Alicia Kae Herries, Rebecca Hollingsworth

I. CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS:

Kiely called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Commissioners gave their name and district. Herries introduced herself, and announced that she is applying for 2nd District Commissioner. Hollingsworth, a previous Commissioner and Chair of the Commission, introduced herself.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

There was not a quorum of Commissioners, so the Agenda and January 14, 2010 Draft Minutes could not be approved. Kiely announced the meeting would be informational only, and no items could be voted on.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND OPENINGS:

Kiely announced the current vacancies are: none in the 1st District, two in the 2nd, one in the 3rd, two in the 4th, and one in the 5th, totaling five openings.

V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATES:

Acosta met with Supervisor Kelley, submitting her resignation from the Commission effective the end of February. She will finish the projects she has committed to, including the 2009-2010 Junior Commissioner Booklet.



Famini emailed Supervisor Brown asking for her opinion on the CSW moving to the District Attorney's office. Famini has not heard back.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Work Plan Update:

Kiely resigned her post with the Area Agency on Aging.

Brown Act Presentation:

Kiely deferred the Brown Act presentation to when there is full Commissioner attendance.

Publicity Outreach Follow-up:

Roper is finished with the PowerPoint. Roper believed Vivio sent Jaillet a list of contact email addresses, and Jaillet confirmed. Roper encouraged Commissioners to find venues to present the PowerPoint.

Scholarship Fund:

Brenner was not present to discuss. Famini believes March is the deadline for Santa Rosa Junior College Fall scholarships. Famini suggested moving the CSW funds from the YWCA to the Santa Rosa Junior College. The College will hold funds until full amount for a scholarship is reached. Roper volunteered to transfer the CSW funds from the YWCA to the Santa Rosa Junior College.

Possible Move of Commission to District Attorney's Office:

Kiely forwarded Commissioner comments to District Attorney Passalacqua the day after the January Commission meeting. She has heard nothing further. Basham said the idea of moving the Commission to the District Attorney's office started after Basham and Kiely met with Ann Goodrich, previous Human Resources Director, over losing Analyst staff support. After the meeting Basham complained to Supervisor Zane about Human Resources' lack of support for the Commission.

Acosta shared with Supervisor Kelley her thoughts on potential problems resulting from the Commission reporting to an elected official, and being under the Board of Supervisors, also elected officials. The situation could be awkward. Basham said there is good and bad no matter where the CSW is, and it should all pan out. Acosta explained that the county budget is so tight departments are asking what their statutory function and mandate is, and are cutting everything that is not necessary, and in view of budget issues the CSW is vulnerable to losing staff and support no matter where it operates.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Proclamation for Women's History Month:

Proclaiming March Women's History Month in Sonoma County will be voted on at the March 11, 2010 Commission meeting, and if passed will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on March 16, 2010.

Basham reported that she and Vivio gave an interview about the CSW and plans for celebrating Women's History Month to Dana DiRicco, with Sonoma County Today television show. Basham said the interview was about thirty minutes long, and went well.

Basham next gave an update on the plans to celebrate Women's History Month in Sonoma County. Three events are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, March 15, 2010, 7-8:30 p.m., Santa Rosa Main Library. Will Spears will present *Writing Women Back into Musical History*. Roper will attend and volunteered to bring cookies.
- Monday, March 22, 2010, 7-8:30 p.m., Windsor Library. Velma Guillory will present *Writing Black Women Back into History*. Kiely will attend.
- Wednesday, March 24, 2010, 7-8:30 p.m., Rohnert Park Library. Supervisor Zane will present.

Basham invited Commissioners and Junior Commissioners to the women's history events, and asked for volunteers to bring cookies or other refreshment if they could. Basham will promote the events by contacting Chris Smith at The Press Democrat, calling radio stations, having a friend make posters to advertise, and having the Manager of Barnes and Noble in downtown Santa Rosa do a window display.

Basham next introduced Hollingsworth to give a report on women's history school presentations. Hollingsworth announced she is now the Director, Youth Education and Outreach, for National Women's History Project. She will present different themes of women's history to Sonoma Country Day School 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes, and to a full school assembly on March 29, starting at 8:30 a.m. Hollingsworth offered to include showing the CSW PowerPoint at the assembly, targeting parents in the audience, and asked if Kiely could attend.

Students at Sonoma Country Day school will also be entering an essay contest for O Magazine. The essay theme is *Thirty Years of Writing Women Back Into History*. Kiely will review the essays on March 19.

In addition to Sonoma Country Day school, Hollingsworth hopes to present to Windsor High School U.S. History class, and offered to speak at schools requesting a speaker. Hollingsworth is willing to continue speaking into April, if necessary.

Hollingsworth informed the group that 2011 is the 100th anniversary of legislation passed, allowing women the right to vote in California. Plans to celebrate this event will be discussed later.

Representation Coordinator Event Plans:

Roper suggested possibly collaborating with the No Name Group for the May appointments training workshop. Acosta suggested encouraging people to get involved in local Commissions as a start, then moving forward to an elected position.

Kiely asked Roper to research the No Name Group and California Women Lead and bring a recommendation to the Commission in March to vote on. Roper agreed to.

VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Junior Commission (Famini):

Neal reported there was 100% attendance at the last Junior Commission meeting. Hirvonen shared that the career panel guest speakers offered a lot of advice to the Junior Commissioners on what they can do now, in order to be in positions similar to those the panelists are now in. Neal commented that none of the panelists came from privileged backgrounds, and the advice they gave was to be tough, aggressive, and to establish credibility, in order to get to where one wants to be.

Famini informed that all of the Junior Commissioners except one have their venue and questions ready for conducting their focus groups.

Famini also informed that two Junior Commissioners in the fifth district are working on Supervisor Carrillo's question regarding Latina pregnancy and the dropout rate. Famini expects an answer to be available by April. Roper will set up a meeting with the Junior Commissioners working on the issue, and Supervisor Carrillo.

Neal commented that she doesn't have a clear perception of what the CSW does or is, and suggested that Commissioners interact more at the Junior Commissioner meetings. Famini said that was her goal, and tried to have that take place. It is challenging when the number of Commissioners is low.

Community Issues Liaison & Coordinators:

◇ ACCW (Association of California Commissions for Women) Liaison (Acosta):

No report this month. Acosta recommended removing this from future Agendas due to low activity.

◇ AAA (Area Agency on Aging) Liaison (Kiely):

Kiely resigned her position with the Area Agency on Aging. Removing this from future Agendas will be discussed at the March meeting.

◇ Career Technical Education and Non-Traditional Career Liaison (Brenner):

No report this month.

◇ Domestic Violence Liaison (Roper):

Roper reported DeWald will take over the Domestic Violence Liaison position.

◇ Human Trafficking Liaison (Brenner):

No report this month.

◇ Legislation Coordinator (Vivio):

No report this month.

◇ Representation Coordinator (Roper):

Discussed earlier under New Business.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Attendance Report Distribution:

The attendance report was distributed.

Budget Report Distribution:

The budget report was distributed.

Correspondence:

The mailbag was electronically distributed February 11, 2010.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

- Vote on all CSW proclamations for the year
- Drop two Liaison reports from future Agendas
- Vote on the budget for Women's History Month
- Brown Act Presentation - Kiely
- Follow-up on Santa Rosa Junior College Scholarship

XI. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Supervisor meetings are now streaming live on the web, and is a great opportunity to advertise for new Commissioners when addressing the Board.

Kiely thanked Commissioner Acosta for her service on the Commission.

Roper and Famini attended a dinner reception honoring JoAnn Falletta, organized by previous Commissioner and Chair Robyn Bramhall. Bramhall requested the Commissioners in attendance to let the Commission know that she was successful in her quest, on behalf of the CSW, to have the conductor of the Santa Rosa Symphony feature a woman conductor or composer on a program.

XII. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 6:00 PM.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Kiely adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.